

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. A method for forming water-soluble silver ion releasing glass fibers, the method comprising providing a composition suitable for producing a water-soluble silver ion releasing glass and heating said composition above the melting point of said glass to form a molten glass, cooling at least a portion of said molten glass to a preselected working temperature, maintaining the temperature of the portion of said molten glass at the working temperature and then processing said molten glass having said working temperature into fibers.

Claim 9 has been cancelled.

10. A method as claimed in Claim 1 ~~9~~ wherein silver orthophosphate is added during manufacture of the glass as a source of silver ions.

Claims 16 to 20 have been cancelled.